



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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UN-Sudan Relations

- During a telephone exchange yesterday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and President Al-Bashir discussed the nominations for the post of joint UN-AU Special Representative to Sudan. President Bashir gave his initial consent to the nominations, adding that they will be subjected to further consideration. Bashir invited Ki-moon to visit Sudan to assess the situation firsthand. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- A UN official in Khartoum stated yesterday that a number of countries have not responded to UN requests to contribute military personnel to support the AU mission in Darfur as part of the UN support package agreement. The official added that only 34 of the 105 needed soldiers have deployed thus far. (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Sudan's Justice Minister Mohammed Ali Al-Mardhi described the UN human rights mission to his country as "biased." Al-Mardhi is heading to Geneva for a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council, which opens a three-week session today. On the agenda: Sudan's decision to rebuff a mission to assess the situation in Darfur. Al-Mardhi is expected to justify Sudan's decision not to grant visas for the UN mission last February. The Justice Minister also said Sudan would not be intimidated by threats of sanctions or let its citizens be tried by international courts. "The sanctions do not frighten us and will not force us to retreat from our principles of rejecting foreign forces from Darfur and not agreeing to the trial of any Sudanese outside Sudan," he said. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Darfur

- In a meeting yesterday with the wali (governor) of North Darfur State, Yousif Kibir, the U.S. Department of State's Assistant Secretary for

Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Barry Lowenkron discussed improvements to the humanitarian situation in the Internally Displaced Persons camps as well as ways to surmount obstacles hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need. (*Sudan TV*)

Sudanese released from Guantanamo

- Adil Hamad, who is one of the nine Sudanese nationals who has been in detention at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo, was reportedly released yesterday. He had been detained there since 2002. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Immigration decision on Sudanese living in U.S.

- The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced an 18-month extension of the "temporary protected status" that is granted to Sudanese nationals living in the U.S. The decision extends this status until November 2, 2008. USCIS argued that security conditions in the western and southern regions of Sudan remain volatile and dangerous. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Miscellaneous

- The Ministry of Finance has begun to identify government-owned companies that could be privatized by the end of this fiscal year. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Quote of the Day:

"The U.S. hostility against Sudan is due to Sudan's refusal to recognize the state of Israel." -- Abdel Basit Sabdarat, Minister of Federal Rule

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.